

Speaker Registration/Testimony

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Meeting Date 10-11-2017
Council/PH Committee ExecutiveMatters
Agenda Item Bill 83
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

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Written Testimony

I am writing as a resident of Honolulu who finds the banning of people sitting or lying on public sidewalks near public schools and libraries to be dehumanizing as well as criminalizing of homeless people. I STRONGLY OPPOSE this measure! Research has shown that preventing people from sitting or lying in on grounds does not solve Hawaii's housing issues or secure people the services they need. Additionally, there has not been adequate evidence that shows there is enough FREE and OPEN shelters to house the number of people who are homeless. We need affordable housing, living wages, and better access to mental health services, NOT policies and ordinances that will stigmatize and criminalize homelessness even more. We need to care about people who are houseless, not make life harder for them.

The city WASTED and gave back millions in federal HUD money earmarked for affordable rental housing. Why is this the case? The city council should put their efforts into careful assessment of why the city forfeited over \$2 million of HUD federal funding for affordable low income housing because of failure to spend it in time RATHER than further criminalizing people who are already battling the injustices that our society has created.

Testimony Attachment
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